

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 5-10, 13-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,599,108 to Yamashita in view of US 3,877,546 to Shrader and US 6,304,011 to Pullen et al. Claims 12, 16 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with this response, independent claims 5, 15 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claims 12, 16 and 21, respectively, to place the application in allowable form. As a result of these claim amendments and cancellations, the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-4 were previously canceled.

Independent claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 12, thereby placing claim 5 in allowable form.

Claims 6-10 depend on allowable claim 5 and are, therefore, allowable.

Claims 11-12 have been canceled.

Claim 13 depends on allowable claim 5 and claim 14 depends on claim 13, and thus these claims are in allowable form.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 16, thereby placing claim 15 in allowable form.

Claim 16 has been canceled.

Claims 17-19 depend, either directly or indirectly, on allowable claim 15 and are thus likewise allowable.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 21, thereby placing claim 20 in allowable form.

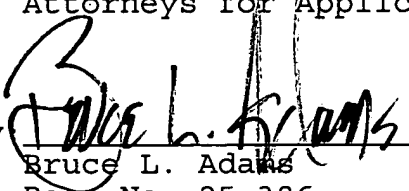
Claim 21 has been canceled.

As a consequence of the foregoing amendments, only allowable claims 5-10, 13-15 and 17-20 are pending and the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Donna Riccardulli

Name


Signature

DECEMBER 2, 2009

Date